

AgriBiz!

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Please visit our website at: www.SCAgEd.org

State Awards
Nance Named Outstanding Farmer In South Carolina

Michael Nance of McConnells, SC was named the Outstanding Farmer in South Carolina by the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association during a ceremony at the annual conference of the organization in Myrtle Beach, SC. He received an engraved plaque and a financial contribution from AgSouth Farm Credit who co-sponsors the Outstanding Farmer Recognition Program. The presentation was made by Karen Baxley of Rock Hill, an official with AgSouth Farm Credit.

Michael operates a 1,095 acre farm located in York and Chester Counties consisting of cotton, beef cattle, corn, milo, soybeans, wheat, triticale, Coastal Bermuda grass and some woodland. His beef production enterprise is the only joint partnership of his successful agricultural business. He also bales and markets wheat straw and corn stalks used for harvest decorations. The Nance farm includes personally owned land, family-owned land and some rented acreage.

Always looking for more efficient ways to manage his farming operation, Michael takes advantage of alternative marketing of products, utilizing modern record keeping procedures and diversification of profitable crops. Forage crop production has been one of his more profitable ventures due to the use of Craig's List and other social media sites for marketing. To reduce labor, fuel and equipment costs, Michael uses conservation tillage technology, which also substantially reduces soil erosion and enhances water quality.

A graduate of Clemson University with a BS degree in Agricultural Mechanization and Business with a minor in Agribusiness Management and Agronomy, Michael is a member of the Chester Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.

In addition to a progressive farming business, Michael owns and operates a tractor and implement dealership that is so successful it earned him the Outstanding Agribusiness Award at the state level a few years ago.

A former president of the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association, Michael is a recipient of the prestigious Honorary State FFA Degree presented by the SC FFA Association.

Michael is married to the former Lisa Melton of Rock Hill, SC and they have two children, Phoebe who is six and Lenna who is four. They are active members of Olivet Presbyterian Church in McConnells where Michael serves as an Elder. Kip Beam, Agricultural Education Instructor at Chester High School, serves as the advisor to the Chester Young Farmer and Agribusiness organization.



Karen Baxley, an official with AgSouth Farm Credit Association in Rock Hill, is shown presenting a plaque to Michael Nance of McConnells in recognition of his being named Outstanding Farmer in South Carolina. Michael is a member of the Chester Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.





Wilson Receives State Agribusiness Award



Peter B. Wilson (left) is congratulated by Daniel Rummel, assistant vice president of ArborOne Farm Credit Association headquartered in Florence, SC, upon being named recipient of the State Agribusiness Award, presented by the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association and the farm credit organization.



Peter B. Wilson of Lowrys was named recipient of the prestigious State Agribusiness Award by the SC Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association at a ceremony held during the recent annual conference of the organization in Myrtle Beach, SC. He received an engraved plaque and a financial contribution from the ArborOne Farm Credit Association headquartered in Florence, SC, who co-sponsors the Agribusiness Recognition Program.

Peter, his brother JEB and their father Jeff Wilson own and operate Cotton Hills Farm and Agribusiness near Lowrys.

The addition of a 6400 square foot climate controlled processing and packaging facility with offices has revolutionized the agribusiness aspects of Cotton Hills Farm. The new facility has substantially improved the efficiency of grading and packaging fruit and vegetables for marketing. It is now possible for employees to grade and package 150 boxes of tomatoes per hour that previously took a full day to complete. The utilization of drip irrigation has resulted in record yields of top quality, tasty products sold in their market adjacent the farm and other sales outlets throughout the region.

A graduate of Clemson University with a BS degree in Business and a minor in Agricultural Mechanization, Peter is continually researching and implementing innovative methods that have resulted in the Cotton Hills Farm and Agribusiness becoming a successful and profitable enterprise.

Peter is a graduate of Chester High School where he served as FFA president. He was named winner of the National Ag Day Essay Competition while in high school by writing about his experiences with no-till farming and was awarded an expense paid trip to Washington, DC.

An active member of the Chester County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter, Peter has served that organization as vice president and president. He also serves as a deacon in the Zion Presbyterian Church in Lowrys.

Peter is married to the former Caroline Robbins of Rock Hill who is a valuable partner in the successful operation of the Cotton Hills Agribusiness.

Kip Beam, Agricultural Science Instructor at Chester High School, serves as advisor to the Chester County Young Farmer and Agribusiness Chapter.

Provided by John W. Parris, SC Agri-News Service, Columbia, SC

The 67th Annual SCYFAA Conference

Contributed by Tim Keown

The South Carolina Young Farmer and Agribusiness Association experienced a successful and historical state conference at the Hilton Myrtle Beach Resort. SCYFAA members from all over the state came to Myrtle Beach for the collaboration between the SCYFAA, the SC Pork Board, and the SC Soybean Board for the annual conference of the three organizations.

The conference program began on Friday with a seminar for the Agricultural Educators and concluded with an Awards Banquet sponsored by the SC Pork Board and the SC Soybean Board, which highlighted agriculture leaders and award winners from the three groups. The night concluded with motivational speaker Jolene Brown, who inspired the audience with her humorous presentation titled: "Lions and Tigers and Family, Oh My! Pitfalls and Snares That Break Up A Family And Business."

The SC Pork Board presented the award for Pork Producer of the Year at the Friday Night Banquet. Awards presented by the SCYFAA included: Energy Efficiency, Conservationist of the Year, and the Outstanding Service Awards.

Saturday's program began early with a business session followed by informative educational workshops that included guest speaker Jolene Brown, CAMM Certification, Smokin' Coles BBQ demonstration, and Soybean Pest Management.

The Awards Luncheon on Saturday included recognition of regional and state champions in various crop and production categories. An ice cream and dessert social with the exhibitors followed lunch.

The Saturday Awards Banquet featured the recognition of the Farmer of the Year, the Agribusiness Person of the Year, the Outstanding Chapter Advisor, Outstanding Chapter Awards, and the Distinguished Service Award. A successful and profitable auction led by Auctioneer Mike Ulmer ended the conference.

The SCYFAA chartered four new chapters at the conference! Representatives from each new chapter were there to receive their charter for membership. Spring Hill, Lake View, Branchville, and Horry County were all welcomed into the SCYFAA. These chapters are already showing astronomical gains in their membership!

State officers elected include Mac McLeod, President, Sumter County Chapter; Jay Fanning, President-Elect, Edisto Chapter; Jeremy Holtzclaw, Piedmont Region Vice President, Crescent Chapter; Stanley Rawl, Mid-State Region Vice President, Pelion Chapter; Andrew Fanning, Lower-State Region Vice President, Edisto Chapter; Kevin Gowdy, Pee Dee Region Vice President, East Clarendon Chapter; and Tripp Kemp, Past-President/Treasurer, Edisto Chapter. Tim Keown serves as Executive Director for the organization. The Advisor for the organization is Billy Keels, State Director of Agricultural Education.



New SCYFAA charters pictured above (L to R): Branchville, Horry County, Lake View, and Spring Hill.



Presenters and speakers from the convention



Scenes from the banquet and convention meetings



SCYFAA Award Winners

Farmer of the Year

Mid-State and State
Michael Nance
Chester Chapter

Pee Dee Region
Dan Gause
East Clarendon Chapter

Agribusiness Person of the Year

Mid-State and State Winner
Peter Wilson
Chester Chapter

Piedmont Region
Billy Brickle
Crescent Chapter

Pee Dee Region
Ashley Altman
East Clarendon Chapter

Advisor of the Year

Pee Dee and State
Bert Beasley
East Clarendon Chapter.

Piedmont Region
Jay Copelan,
Anderson Chapter

Mid-State Region
Dr. Darla Steele
Strom Thurmond Chapter

Chapter of the Year

Mid-State and State
Saluda Chapter

Piedmont
Laurens chapter

Pee Dee winner
East Clarendon Chapter

Lower State
Colleton-Bamberg-Barnwell Chapter.

Irrigated Corn

William Jameson
Edisto Chapter

Non-Irrigated Corn

Dan Gause
East Clarendon Chapter

Non-Irrigated Soybean

Dan Gause
East Clarendon Chapter

Cotton

Clark Stillinger
Edisto Chapter

Peanut

William Jameson
Edisto Chapter

Small Grain

Will Anderson
Anderson Chapter

Beef Cattle

Ryan Black
Saluda Chapter

Energy Efficiency

Nigel Irons
Laurens Chapter

Horticulture

John Weathers
Sumter Chapter

Conservation

Frank McLeod
Sumter Chapter

Pork Producer

Kelly Copelan
Anderson Chapter

Farm Shop

Dan Gause
East Clarendon Chapter

Chapter President

Ricky McDaniel
Sumter Chapter

Chapter Membership

Colleton-Bamberg-Barnwell Chapter



Advisor of the Year

*Bert Beasley is congratulated by
Clarendon School District Three
Superintendent, Dr. Connie Dennis*



Chapter of the Year

*Saluda Advisor, Amanda Crouch, is
congratulated by State President, Tripp Kemp*



Farm Shop

*Dan Gause, from the East
Clarendon Chapter, is
congratulated by Agri-Supply
spokesperson, Bud Miller*



Horticulture Award

*John Weathers, from the Sumter
Chapter, is congratulated by
Steve Sanderson, Advisor for
the chapter*



Beef Award

*Ryan Black, from the Saluda
chapter, is congratulated by
his wife Kayla, and children
Colton and Presley*



Non-Irrigated Corn & Soybean Yield

*Dan Gause from the East
Clarendon Chapter*



Irrigated Corn & Peanut Winner

*William Jameson,
from the Edisto
Chapter, is
congratulated by
his Advisor, Travis
Ard*



Cotton

*Clark Stillinger,
from the Edisto
Chapter, is
congratulated
by Americot
representative, Jeff
Sandifer*



Pork Producer

*Kelly Copelan,
from the
Anderson
Chapter, is
congratulated
by her Advisor,
Jay Copelan*



Steve Sanderson Special Award

*Former Executive Secretary for the SCYFAA
and current Advisor to the Sumter Chapter,
Steve Sanderson, received a special service
award and is congratulated by the Chapter
President of the Year, Ricky McDaniel
also from the Sumter Chapter. McDaniel
also finished second in the small grain
production contest.*



Membership Award

*Advisors for the Colleton Bamberg
Chapter; Robyn Lutton, Matt Lutton and
Mindy Sandifer received the Award on
behalf of the Colleton Bamberg Chapter
for having the highest membership in the
state. The chapter was also the Lower
State Region Chapter of the Year.*

88th State Convention Announced By State FFA Officers

On behalf of the 2014-15 State Officer Team, I would like to announce that the 88th Annual State FFA Convention will take place at Clemson University, June 10-12, 2015. The business and general sessions will be held in the Brooks Center for the Performing Arts.

The first general session will begin at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, June 10th, with an official welcome to Clemson University. Outstanding FFA chapters will be recognized as National Chapter winners in the Superior, Bronze Emblem, Silver Emblem and Gold Emblem categories, and a number of scholarships will be awarded. Among the highlights of Wednesday evening's 6:30 PM session is our keynote speaker Jane Herlong. Mrs. Herlong will have everyone on his or her feet, just as she did at the National FFA Convention this past fall.

On Thursday, June 11th, the state finals in eight career development events (CDEs) will be conducted in the morning, and the second general session will begin at 1:30 PM with the recognition of state champions in CDEs held during the school year. We will also be confirming State FFA Degrees to our best members. The FFA Stars over South Carolina Ceremony will recognize regional and state stars in farming, agribusiness and agricultural placement. A number of Honorary State Degrees will also be presented to friends and supporters of the FFA. The closing session on Friday morning will include the announcement of state winners in career development events held during the convention, other recognition programs and, of course, the election of the 2015-16 team.

We hope you all are as excited about State Convention as we are! As you prepare for our festivities in Clemson, I hope you remember to Go All Out in all that you do. Whether you are preparing for CDEs, running for state office, or just getting pumped for convention, we encourage you to find ways to Go All Out in FFA and in your communities. As FFA members, we live to serve, and we work diligently in everything we do. My teammates and I have been blessed to serve you this year and we cannot wait to see you at the 88th Annual South Carolina FFA Convention! So pack your bags, bring your excitement, and get ready to GO ALL OUT!

Anna Catherine Wayne
2014-2015 SCFFA State President



Honorary State Degree Recipients



State President Anna Catherine Wayne was joined by Ronnie Summers of Ag South Farm Credit.



James Roberts Agriculture Teacher at Aynor High receiving his degree from State President Anna Catherine Wayne



Abbee Carnes, Miss SC FFA 2015, sings the National Anthem. Abbee is from the West Oak Chapter





Rain, Sleet and Snow Couldn't Keep the Blue Corduroy from the Capital

Contributed by Keith Cox



South Carolina High School Agricultural Education students attended the SC FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Ceremony in Columbia February 25. Every year South Carolina FFA members attend the SC FFA-sponsored State Legislators Appreciation Ceremony in Columbia. The students and their FFA advisor began the day by visiting with State Senators and Representatives from their home districts to thank them for their support of Agricultural Education.

Their local representative introduced some FFA chapters to the members of the House of Representatives, while in session.

Following the visits, the group braved the cold and weather to join the hundreds of FFA members and advisors from throughout South Carolina on the north steps of the State Capitol for a special recognition ceremony. The event got under way with the FFA opening ceremony. The group was lead in the Prayer by DeShawn Blanding, State Vice President and heard a wonderful rendition of the National Anthem by Abbee Carnes the 2015 Miss SC FFA. Abbee is from the West Oak Chapter

The State FFA Officers presented the prestigious Honorary State FFA Degree to Ronnie Summers, Regional President with AgSouth Farm Credit and James Roberts, Agricultural Teacher at Aynor High School. The purpose of the Honorary State degree is to recognize individuals who have rendered outstanding service to agricultural education and the FFA program.

Commissioner Hugh Weathers, SC Commissioner of Agriculture, presented the Governors Proclamation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of Governor Haley. This was in recognition of National FFA Week February 21-28, 2015.

State Senator Daniel B. Verdin, of Laurens, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee and State Representative David R. Hiott, of Pickens County, Chairman of the House Agriculture, Natural Resources & Environmental Affairs Committee, both gave remarks to the FFA members in attendance and presented a Concurrent Resolution of Recognition and Commendation to the State FFA Officers on behalf of all the members of the SC General Assembly.

The 14-15 state FFA officers conducted the ceremony at the South Carolina State House. They are: Anna Catherine Wayne, State President, from the McBee chapter, Hunter Morton, State Secretary from the Pendleton chapter, DeShawn Blanding, State Vice President from the Manning chapter, Courtney Barnett, State Vice President from the Clover chapter, Brent Summers, State Vice President from the Pelion chapter and Paul Dolan, State Vice President from Cane Bay chapter.

The week of George Washington's birthday was designated as National FFA Week in 1947 at a National FFA Board of Directors meeting. FFA Week always runs from Saturday to Saturday and encompasses Washington's Birthday.

The FFA positively influences the young people of America by developing character and leadership skills, and preparing members for successful careers. FFA members are the leaders of tomorrow. Through agricultural education and hands-on learning, FFA members are preparing for more than 300 career opportunities in the food, fiber and natural resources industries of agriculture. With more than 610,000 members, the organization has a history of service and a legacy of leadership.



Commissioner Hugh Weathers, SC Commissioner of Agriculture, with the State FFA Officers



Chairman of the Senate Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee, Daniel B. Verdin, of Laurens meets with the state officers.



Pictured with the State FFA Officers are Senator Daniel B. Verdin of Laurens (far left) and Representative David Hiott of Pickens County. The officers are holding the Concurrent Resolution of Recognition and Commendation of FFA Week.

Camp Hires All New Staff

Contributed by Billy Keels

You will see some new and familiar faces this year as you arrive at the FFA Camp this summer as a whole new staff has been hired.

The new Camp Director is David Campbell from Abbeville, SC. Mr. Campbell is a former FFA member from Calhoun Falls High School. His career has taken him through working in business, teaching and formerly the Head Football Coach at Calhoun Falls Charter School. As part of his teaching duties at Calhoun Falls, Mr. Campbell served as Assistant to the Agriculture Teacher. Mr. Campbell believes in the FFA and the FFA Camp and is excited about the opportunity to come work for the camp and help build both the program and the facilities.

The Camp also hired a new facilities manager but he is no stranger to those who attended camp last year. Cole Almasy, who served as the camp cook last year has accepted an expanded role as Camp Facilities Manager. Mr. Almasy has had a long and successful career in business, including owning his own catering company. He has experience in many areas of maintenance and management. Mr. Almasy will continue to oversee the cafeteria and meals as well as his job of Facilities Manager.

In order to provide assistance to Cole, the FFA also hired Sharon Almasy, Cole's wife, to provide assistance with both facilities maintenance and cooking. Ms. Almasy has many years of experience in managing restaurants and has the business skills required to assist in ensuring the camp's affairs are kept in order.

All new staff members will be in place by this summer where they will be working hard to ensure the best camping experience for FFA members.



Agriculture Teacher Works To Help FFA Camp Get Much Needed Repairs

Contributed by Billy Keels

The FFA Camp at Cherry Grove Beach started serving FFA students in South Carolina in 1957. The buildings constructed in the mid-50's were constructed to endure and endure they have. However, with the passage of time comes the need for some much needed repairs.

The cost of repairs needed is very expensive. An expense that seems insurmountable. Yet one Ag Teacher in the state took it on himself to not let this challenge stop him from working to save the FFA Camp.

Pat Earle, Agriculture Teacher and FFA Advisor at McBee High School began his quest to get funds for camp repairs by addressing that which is needed most, roofs. Most of the buildings at the camp have roofs that are over 50 years old. As a result, leaks in the buildings are causing further damage to the structures. Mr. Earle went to the South Carolina Legislature and worked through key supporters in the House and Senate, to get some funds allocated to the Budget and Control Board to make some much needed repairs. Mr. Earle stated "This is the first step. I know that this will not get all of the roofs repaired but it is a start. We will continue to work until we get those roofs repaired."



Some camp buildings will get needed roof repairs similar to the roof repairs made on the cafeteria

the SC FFA Foundation agreed to provide the funds to have the hot water heaters installed.

Mr. Earle stated, "This camp has meant a lot to hundreds of students that I have taught over the years. My FFA members who attended will always site their trip to the FFA Camp as one of their highlights of their FFA experience. I want to make sure that we can continue to offer these experiences for years to come."

Thanks to the work of one man who saw a need and decided to do something about it, the FFA Camp will receive some much needed repairs which will allow the facility to continue serving FFA members in South Carolina.

2015 FFA Summer Camping Program

Where

FFA Center, North Myrtle Beach, SC

When

Session 1 -- June 15 – 19

Session 2 -- June 22- 26

Session 3 -- June 29 – July 3

Leadership Camp -- August 4 – 7

Activities

Kayaking, Archery, Adventure Course, Paint Ball, Swimming, Ag Olympics, Cardboard challenge and THE BEACH

Attractions

Broadway Grandprix, Sea Thunder Dolphin Cruise, Carnival of Magic Show at the Palace Theater

Registration

To register to attend summer camp, go to www.SCAgEd.org and click on "SC FFA Camp"



FFA Expands Camping Programs

Contributed by Billy Keels

The FFA Camp provided some new opportunities for FFA members starting in the fall of 2014. In addition to the summer camping program, the SC FFA Association added some "non-summer" programs to provide opportunities for learning and a whole lot of fun.

The Fishing and Marine Camp was held in November. This camp provided campers an opportunity to take two deep sea fishing excursions as well as an opportunity to do some pier fishing. Local ship captains and the students from the Marine Science program at Coastal Carolina University provided educational programs.

A Greenhand Camp was held in February. The camp was designed to give first year FFA members or "Greenhands" an opportunity to learn more about the FFA and the many opportunities available to them. Activities included participation in mock CDE's, developing and holding a banquet as well as other programs to allow students to get to know each other and more about the FFA. The group also had a great time on a trip to Wonder Works.

In March an Equine Camp was held. FFA members who attended were provided an educational program offered by animal science experts from Clemson University as well as an informative visit to the Wampee Stables. Campers also had an opportunity to view expert horsemanship at the Medieval Times dinner show, which included a behind the scenes tour of the stables guided by the Master of Horse. The highlight of the camp was two trail rides, including one along the shores of the Atlantic Ocean.

These, as well as additional camping programs, to include a Hunter and Boater Education program and a Horticulture Camp are scheduled for 2015-16. To check for details, go to www.SCAGED.org and click on "SC FFA Camp".



Agricultural Mechanics



Lexington-Richland 5 FFA
Paul Dolan (State VP), Kevin Sox (Advisor)
Parker Fuller, Jacob Cathcart, Chandler
French, Matthew Bonnette, Hunter Morton
(State Secretary)

Dairy Handler



Clover FFA
Tripp Bolin

Dairy Judging



Clover FFA
Sierra Mazurkiewicz, Hannah
Rhyne, Madison Hansen, Erin
Ramsdale

Floriculture



Strom Thurmond FFA
Pictured L to R: Brett Summers
(SC FFA Vice-President), Alana
Thurmond, Scott Sherman, Leigh
Northrop, Maggie Hightower, Dr.
Darla Steele (FFA Advisor) and
Paul Dolan (SC FFA Vice-President)

Livestock Judging



West Oak FFA
Paul Dolan (State VP), Unidentified,
Taylor Thomas, Abbee Carnes,
Kadalynn Morton, Tara Jenkins
Brent Summers (State VP)

Milk Quality and Products



Lakewood FFA
Front Row: Emily Allen (holding
plaque) & Madison Harris
Back Row: Lauren Beam (in red)
and Caitlin Sanderson

Nursery Landscape



Strom Thurmond FFA
Pictured L to R: Paul Dolan (State VP), Dr.
Darla Steele (FFA Advisor), Mary Ashlyn
Goforth, Julia Crim, Misty Henderson,
Hannah Sexton and Brett Summers (State VP)

Poultry



Clover FFA
L-R: Billy Gallien, Madison
Lovelace, Amarillo Nivens,
Caleb Robinson

Tool Identification



Wagener Salley FFA
Brent Summers (State VP), Brenna
Kirkland, Kelsey Byars, Tanner Turner,
Wyatt Gray

Wildlife



Pendleton FFA
Hunter Morton (State Secretary),
Will Caldwell, Antoine Hernandez,
Hunter Dove, Jordan Radford,
Phillip Leaf, Blake Berry



Your Miss FFA is ...

Contributed by Keith Cox

The Crescent FFA Chapter started the Miss FFA Pageant in 2004. The main driving force to get the pageant started was Lauren Holden, who served as the 2003-04 State FFA Vice-President. Lauren wanted to raise money for the Crohn's Colitis Foundation of America in Honor of Andrea Corzine, the wife of her agriculture teacher Chris Corzine. The love and friendship that Lauren developed with Andrea grew and continues today. Lauren has a servant's heart and couldn't stand the pain that Andrea was going through so she wanted to help make a difference. She got the idea from another friend of Andrea's who had arranged for the proceeds of the Miss Clemson Pageant to be donated to the Crohn's and Colitis Foundation of America in Andrea's honor. While visiting with Andrea on one of her many hospital stays, Lauren asked Mr. Corzine about having a Miss FFA Pageant to raise more money. Mr. Corzine thought the idea was sweet but said, "No, we are not having a Miss FFA Pageant." As Mr. Corzine looks back, he is so grateful that one student whom he wanted to change her life ended up changing his and his wife's. The pageant raised over \$2,500 in its first year, which was donated in Andrea's honor to help fund research and find better treatments for people who suffer with Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

After Mr. Corzine left Crescent High School, the pageant continued under the direction of Tim Keown and Roger Estridge. Through the pageant, Crescent FFA was able to begin giving scholarships and making donations to the Susan B. Komen foundation for breast cancer in honor of Jennifer Christenbury, a breast cancer survivor and former judge in the Miss FFA pageants.

For the last six years, Batesburg-Leesville High School FFA has hosted the statewide FFA pageant for over 200 young ladies who are members of the organization. The contestants are judged on interview, their Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE), stage presence, and an on-stage question. Previous winners have been wonderful representatives of FFA in our state and for women of agriculture. For their efforts, the winners of the pageant are now awarded a \$500 scholarship to be used at the college of their choice.

Since its beginnings, the SC FFA Pageant has helped many FFA members and charities raise scholarship funds and awareness. We are glad that so many people have taken ownership and continued making this event possible through out South Carolina.

Past Winners

2004- Loren Hodgens, Belton Honea Path FFA Chapter
 2005 - Emily McCurry, Belton Honea Path FFA Chapter
 2006 - Jolie Brown, Anderson FFA Chapter,
 2007 - Cameron Burns, Pendleton FFA Chapter
 2008 - Caitlin Raines, BJ Skelton FFA Chapter
 2009 - Ariel Fox, Batesburg-Leesville FFA Chapter
 2010 - Meredith Walker, Clinton FFA Chapter
 2011 - Becky Walker, Pelion FFA Chapter
 2012 - Savannah Vickery, Pendleton FFA Chapter
 2013 - Allie Jhant, Thurmond FFA Chapter
 2014 - Taylor Cordova, Pelion FFA Chapter
 2015 - Abbee Carnes, West Oak FFA Chapter



Former Queens with newly elected: Miss SC FFA 2012 Savannah Vickery, Miss SC FFA 2014 Taylor Cordovano, New Crowned Miss SC FFA 2015 Abbee Carnes, and Miss SC FFA 2009 Ariel Fox.



The early years...



Did you know that the Strom Thurmond FFA chapter has several greenhouses where the grow plants all year long? They grow poinsettias and make wreaths during Christmas time, and grow garden flowers for planting in the spring. Thurmond's thriving horticulture program also cares for the school's various athletic fields. In addition to horticulture, students learn about agricultural mechanics, and they have even built a "machine" that converts French fry grease leftover from athletic events into biodiesel! The Strom Thurmond FFA Chapter is under the leadership of Mrs. Darla Steele, Mr. Jeremy Brooks, and their hardworking chapter officer team.



Did you know that every year Lexington Richland 5 FFA chapter holds a big cookout to start the year off? This is their first official meeting of the year. This gives the officers a chance to preform the opening ceremony for the first time. At the cookout there are very competitive games such as corn hole and volleyball. Their advisor's cook some awesome hamburgers and hotdogs on the grill for this occasion. It's a great way to kick the year off, give members something to look forward to and gives the chapter a chance to recruit some new members while having fun.



Did you know in January the Annual McCallum Alumni Scholarship Dinner hosted by Fort Mill FFA Alumni occurs? The alumni members donate money each year to the Foundation of Fort Mill Schools. Their contributions allow for two graduating seniors, one from Nation Ford High School and one from Fort Mill High School, to be awarded scholarships. Mrs. Phoebe McCallum, now ninety-two years old, joined the large crowd at this notable event. After listening to some of the alumni's favorite FFA memories and stories, I realized that during their FFA career females were not eligible for membership. It was so refreshing to see the impact the FFA left in their hearts!



Did you know that the Lake View FFA Chapter is literally five minutes away from the state of North Carolina? Their advisor, Mr. Gilbert Lewis, actually taught in North Carolina for an extensive amount of years before making the decision to retire. After retirement, Mr. Lewis decided to continue to do what he is passionate about, educating the future generations of agriculturalists. While at Lake View, Mr. Lewis has rendered outstanding service to the school and strives to transform this small school into an incredible chapter.



Did you know that Belton Honea Path high school has the largest FFA Chapter in the State of South Carolina? Their chapter consists of 236 members and they are quickly growing. The advisors of the Belton Honea Path Chapter are Glenn Stevens and Ben Woody their main goal as advisors is to expose students to the agricultural industry and the opportunities that the FFA offers to all students. FFA in the State of South Carolina is on the move and the Belton Honea Path Chapter is a great example of how we are moving forward.



Did you know, I went on a chapter visit with DeShawn Blanding to Saluda High School? During the visit I met some amazing members and learn a lot about their chapter. One of the things I learned about is that Saluda high school helps at a local nursing home. This is very unique thing that the chapter does. During the visit I got to see some of their animals they have in their classroom. The chapter has lots of greenhands and first time agriculture students and lots of potential.





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